

## NWS at the Florida Science and Engineering Fair

The 54th Annual State Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) of Florida was held April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Lakeland Center. The event recognized the outstanding science research efforts and talents of Florida students. More than 857 student finalists arrived as winners from 37 Regional Science and Engineering Fairs representing the 67 counties of Florida. This is the largest academic event held in the state of Florida each year. Charlie Paxton the NWS Tampa Bay Area Science and Operations Officer represented NOAA, NWS, and the American Meteorological Society at SSEF. He judged the Senior Earth and Space Science category and selected winners of four special awards that included a NOAA Taking the Pulse of the Planet award for high school juniors and seniors, and two AMS awards for juniors and seniors. The AMS award winners were Julianne Wilhelm with a senior tornado project and Kari Grippio with a junior wave energy project. The NOAA awards went to a senior project on hurricanes and mobile homes by Bianca Mulaney and to a junior beach erosion project by Rachel Aaronson.



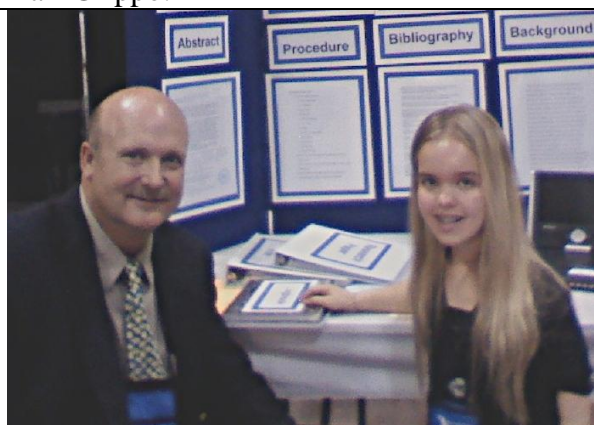
Charlie Paxton and AMS senior award winner Julianne Wilhelm



Charlie Paxton and AMS junior award winner Kari Grippio.



Charlie Paxton and NOAA Taking the Pulse of the Planet senior award winner Bianca Mulaney.



Charlie Paxton and NOAA Taking the Pulse of the Planet junior award winner Rachel Aaronson.